

# Austrian Platform for Single Parents „ÖPA“

**Understands itself as an interest group  
concerning single parents,  
separated parents,  
patchwork families and their children.**

# *Our concern*

- All forms of families can participate "fully" in social life!
- To give single parents, separated parents, patchwork families and their children a full voice, to point out disadvantages and to encourage their elimination.

# *We are an association*

- Women's- and family organizations from church and society
- Family and children's/youth organizations in the federal provinces of Austria
- Child, youth and family organizations
- ...

# *What do our member organizations do?*

- Counselling and help in cases of partnership or family problems
- support during separation and divorce
- difficult situation a personal crisis
- Caring and education
- ...



# ***“JUNO“ - separate parenting - strong together!***

- "In subsidized housing in Vienna, we develop and support single-parent housing projects.
- We work together with non-profit property developers.
- We plan and arrange compact, low-cost flats for single parents in Vienna."

# *Family Centre for Single Parents with „GIGAMPFA“:*

It supports and strengthens the children in this turbulent life situation and relieves the father and mother. The focus is on children's feelings: anger,



sadness, fear, withdrawal, aggressiveness ...



# *FAmOs „Rainbow-families“*

- **FAmOs**
- cares for the interests of rainbow families and LGBTIQ people
- exchange of information and experience
- counselling and networking for rainbow families and those who want to become one
- enforcement of equal rights and duties for us and our children

# *How to reach political goals?*



# *The concerns of families and Austrian Policy*

The legislative authorities are the

- Ministry of Family Affairs,
- Ministry of Social Affairs,
- the Minister for Women's Affairs
- and the Ministry of Justice.

# *Well-intentioned is not always good for everyone or “family is not family”*

- A current example: the "climate bonus":
- Each person in Austria for at least six months in 2022 will receive the climate bonus:
  - Adults € 500
  - Children € 250

What does it mean for families?

## ***Two families in neighbouring flats in the same house:***

- **Family A: Father, mother, one child**

500 + 500 + 250 gets € 1250

- **Family B: one single parent two children**

500 + 250 + 250 gets € 1000

- **What does that this mean?**
- **This is a clear discrimination against single people, especially against single parents.**

# *Challenges for single parents*

- ❖ Reconciliation of family and work,
- ❖ including sufficient quality childcare
- ❖ working hours childcare
- ❖ the location of working hours, appropriate remuneration so that an income is sufficient

# *More challenges*

- ❖ Raising housing and energy costs make it increasingly difficult for single parents to find suitable housing
- ❖ Finding a flexible part-time job that is more compatible with childcare

# *What do single parents need?*

- Finding a flexible part-time job that is more compatible with childcare responsibilities.
- Reconciliation of family and work, which includes, for example, sufficient quality childcare, the location of working hours, appropriate remuneration so that an income is sufficient.

***The Risk of poverty  
and social exclusion of single-parent  
households in Austria - a scientific study***

**“On poverty and social exclusion  
during the pandemic”**

***The risk of poverty in single-parent households has been confirmed to be much higher than in other types of families already over the last 10 years.***

***Whether or not a private household is at risk of poverty depends on its size and composition as well as on the level of its household income. “***

## *risk-of-poverty or at-risk-of-exclusion*

- The at-risk-of-poverty or at-risk-of-exclusion rate for children under 25 to be maintained is 48% in single-parent households,
- the at-risk-of-poverty rate is 38%.
  
- For children under 14, the rate rises to 51%,
- the at-risk-of-poverty rate is 39%.

***“On poverty and social exclusion during the pandemic”***

***Naturally, the situation is even more difficult concerning single parents.***

***For very many single parents the price increases are already a threat to their existence***

# *How much does a child cost?*

- **The monthly child costs for two-adult households amount to € 395 per month on average in 2021 for a child up to 14 years, € 659 for a child over 14 years of age.**
- **Even in single-adult households, older children cause significantly higher costs than younger children.**
- **In 2021, child costs for a child up to 14 years of age amount on average to € 727 per month, for a child over 14 to € 1,384.**

## **Another study on child costs a survey on *maintenance***

- ❖ **Only 73% of the underage children of single parents are entitled to cash maintenance, and of these**
- ❖ **only 51% receive maintenance directly from the other parent**
- ❖ **On average, children receive about 373 € per month**
- ❖ **15% receive less than 200 €**

## *What is to do?*

- **"In the poor social welfare now children become even poorer than they already are, with an unemployment benefit that is too low the social situation of affected children worsens.**
- **But with a good school the chances increase, with affordable housing children can breathe a sigh of relief, with sufficient therapeutic care sick children can regain courage", says the Poverty Conference Network.**

# *How to increase in social transfer payments of families at risk of poverty?*

- **"We can massively reduce child poverty - if we want to politically", the Poverty Conference Network welcomes the launch of the European "Child Guarantee" in Austria!**

# *Opportunities exist*

Let us work together  
in the field of the

**EUROPEAN CHILD GUARANTEE!**